

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 14-28, including independent claims 1, 12, and 14, were pending in this application prior to the Office Action of June 7, 2007. In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, 8-12, 15-19, 21, and 23-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as unpatentable over Koford et al. (USPN 5,557,533). Claims 5, 7, 20, and 22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but considered allowable if rewritten in independent form. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the amendments and arguments herein are respectfully requested.

In the present Amendment, the allowable claims have been rewritten in independent form. Specifically, the limitations of claim 5 have been written into claim 1. Also, “geometrical design” has been amended to “geometrical alteration” to clarify the antecedent basis for the limitations added from claim 5. Critical “area” has been amended to “areas” because the critical areas include both the critical area for short circuits and the critical area for interruptions. Also, in the comparing step, “design which is to be altered” has been amended to “geometrical design” because the geometrical design is the design which is to be altered and is referenced as such throughout the claim. Finally, the “unaltered design data” has been amended to “design data”, as it is referenced in other parts of the claim.

Claim 5 has been canceled. The limitations of claim 1 have been written into claim 7. The limitations of claim 22 have been written into claim 12. Claim 22 has been canceled. The limitations of claims 12 and 19 have been written into claim 20. Claim 19 has been canceled. Claim 21 has been amended to depend on claim 12. Accordingly, no new matter is added by any of the amendments herein.

In addition to the above, the executable programming steps of claim 14 have been amended to mirror the limitations of rewritten (data processing installation) claim 12. Thus, claim 14 is believed allowable.

We respectfully request allowance of the amended claims as well as the claims that depend from them. No new matter has been added as a result of the amendments.

Regarding a previously submitted Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), the Office Action states that the 1449 form of the IDS of March 5, 2007 is not in the record and a copy should be supplied for consideration in the next response. Accordingly, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of the 1449 form that was submitted with the IDS of March 5, 2007. Review of the cited references, initialing by the examiner and return to Applicants are respectfully requested.

The Office Action also states that a copy of PCT/DE03/01863 document (search report) identified in the IDS of December 16, 2004 is not in the record and should be supplied. This document was misnumbered in the IDS. The correct number of the document is PCT/DE03/01862. A copy was provided with the application on December 16, 2004.

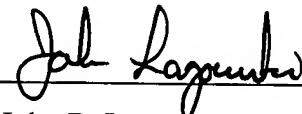
CONCLUSION

Therefore, in view of the above remarks, we respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

If for any reason the Examiner is not able to allow the application, he is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,

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